

## **VA GROUND WATER PROTECTION STEERING COMMITTEE**

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on

**Tuesday, January 18, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

**DEQ 629 East Main Street, Richmond VA**

For more information contact Mary Ann Massie at 804-698-4042 or  
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### **Meeting Summary: Tuesday, November 16, 2004**

Steering Committee members in attendance:

Mary Ann Massie, Department of Environmental Quality

Howard Freeland, Department of Environmental Quality

Rebecca Askew, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Lynn Haynes, Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy

Nancy Miller, Department of Conservation and Recreation-Ches. Bay Local Assist.

Jim McKean, Department of Business Assistance

Randy McFarland, US Geological Survey

Others:

Josh Rubinstein, Virginia Rural Water Association

Katie Kyger, Virginia Agribusiness Council

Kathy Jones, Richmond City Attorney's Office

Brock Herzberg, Virginia Farm Bureau

Agencies not in attendance:

Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of General Services/Division of Consolidated Laboratories, and Department of Health.

Following introductions members offered the following suggestions for presentations in 2005:

DMME's electronic permitting; update on the USGS Coastal Plain framework; update on the USGS Shenandoah Valley regional assessment; update on DHCD's Dry Well Replacement Program; update on DEQ's Water Supply Planning efforts; DEQ's award winning Hazardous Waster program to include case histories; VDH's Emergency Management planning for public water supplies with loss of power; DEQ's Wellhead Protection Plan; Virginia Rural Water Association's dye tracing activities and pump out program; DEQ's Brownfield's Program (specifically insurance aspects and Case Studies); Dr. William Reay, VIMS, research on ground water discharge to coastal systems; Mr. David Powers, USGS, Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater - Modern Consequences of an Ancient Cataclysm.

Mary Ann Massie gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the recent Ground Water Festivals.

## **AGENCY UPDATES:**

### **Department of Environmental Quality**

Larry Lawson, long time Director of DEQ's Water Division, has retired. Mary Ann Massie reported the new director is Ms. Ellen Gilinsky.

On October 21, DEQ submitted a Wellhead Protection Plan for EPA approval. Five ground water festivals were held in September and October. Four were hosted by local volunteers with funding from DEQ's Ground Water Protection grant.

Members updated their contact information for the GWPSC web page.

Howard Freeland, Waste Division, reported the Hazardous Waste section is fully staffed. He continues to work to fill positions in Solid Waste.

### **US Geological Survey**

Randy McFarland, USGS, provided the following update:

1. A first-draft manuscript is being compiled during 2005 of a report to document the revised hydrogeologic framework of the Virginia Coastal Plain. Final publication is planned for 2006.
2. Calibration of the Virginia Coastal Plain ground-water model continues based on the revised hydrogeologic framework and on recently completed ground-water withdrawal data sets. Completion of the model is planned for 2006.
3. Samples of sediment-core pore water collected at Cape Charles during the summer of 2004 are undergoing additional geochemical analyses to investigate the presence of hydrothermal brine within the Chesapeake Bay impact crater and its relation to regional ground-water salinity. Two deep wells installed at the Cape Charles site are planned to be further developed prior to collection of additional ground-water samples.
4. A seismic survey to determine details of the geologic structure across the center of the crater was conducted on the Virginia Eastern Shore during September 2004. A multi-thousand-foot core hole is planned to be drilled near the crater center during the late summer of 2005.

Members expressed an interest in keeping up to date on the Summer 2005 Continental Drilling Program associated with the impact crater. The USGS web site for additional information on the impact crater is

<http://geology.er.usgs.gov/eespteam/crater/>

### **Department of Conservation and Recreation – Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Division**

Nancy Miller reported some reorganization in storm water management staffing, plans for an upcoming retreat of the Board associated with Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance, and continued progress on the merger with DCR.

### **Department of Business Assistance**

Jim McKean noted their new Director is Mr. Mike Eisenman.

DBA is taking a lead role in promoting Small, Women and Minority Owned Business opportunities in the Commonwealth.

## **Department of Housing and Community Development**

Wyatt Little provided the following update in absentia:

October 2004

Under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, DHCD will award Lancaster County with \$144,773 in CDBG Disaster Recovery Funds to reconstruct three homes damaged by Hurricane Isabel. The County will use the funds to provide a new well for one of the homes and a new septic system for another.

Accomack County will receive \$1,185,000 in CDBG funds to rehabilitate or reconstruct a total of 20 homes, three of which lack indoor plumbing. The project will also result in street improvements, the demolition and removal of 14 abandoned structures, and the installation of a community-wide storm water drainage system.

September 2004

Caroline County will receive \$999,875 from DHCD for the Dawn Wastewater Treatment and Housing Rehabilitation Project. The county will use the CDBG funds to rehabilitate 14 homes and leverage additional funds to construct a decentralized wastewater treatment facility that will benefit the community. DHCD has also provided Caroline County with \$500,000 in Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation funds to rehabilitate approximately 10 homes in Dawn and connect the homes with clean and safe public water and wastewater systems.

July 2004

More than \$15 million in 2004 Community Development Block Grant offers were made to 25 Virginia localities. Fourteen of the 25 approved projects will create new or rehabilitate existing housing to ensure safe and affordable housing options for more than 400 Virginians. Additionally, a majority of the grants announced will fund critical infrastructure projects such as public water and sewer systems that will connect more than 3,000 Virginians with clean and safe running water.

## **Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

Rebecca Askew reported the AgStewardship annual reports are available. Visit their web site for the complete report.

<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/stewardship/index.html>

Rebecca also noted Dr. Marvin Lawson will retire effective March 1, 2005 and Mr. Dan Schweitzer will retire effective February 1, 2005.

## **Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy**

Lynn Haynes reported on the Division of Mined Land Reclamation's new Well Construction and Water Transactions modules in the recently released Electronic Permitting program update (EPII). This allows the monitoring well construction data and the water monitoring data contained in a permit application to be directly captured in the DMME database.

Additionally Lynn relayed the following from the Division of Mineral Mining:

(1) As part of the Mineral Mine Operator Assistance Manual, a new chapter entitled "Ground Water Protection" was recently completed. This chapter, and the Manual as a whole, will serve as a non-regulatory guidance document for mineral mine operators. The chapter provides detailed descriptions of practical methods for gathering baseline hydrologic data and assessing the potential impacts from mining as part of a ground water protection plan. A PowerPoint presentation has been produced as a summary of the chapter.

(2) From mid-2003 to present, DMM has assisted VA DGIF in an investigation of invasive zebra mussels at Millbrook Quarry, a 1950s era mine that produced crushed stone in Prince William County. DMM (with some mapping assistance from DMR) completed ground water investigations to assess the hydrologic connection between regional ground water, water impounded in the quarry, and surface water resources. Currently, DGIF is preparing an RFP for eradication of the non-native mussels. We have produced a written report documenting results (an addendum is in progress). A 35-slide PowerPoint presentation that summarizes our findings was recently (Oct 6) presented at the Virginia Water Research Symposium 2004, held in Blacksburg.

Josh Rubinstein with **Virginia Rural Water Association** reminded members of their upcoming annual conference March 20-22 in Williamsburg. For details visit [www.vrwa.org](http://www.vrwa.org)

**THE NEXT MEETING IS SET FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2005**